airlines from Europe, Canada and United Kingdom to Amritsar is concerned, none of them have approached for the access of Amritsar for their designated carriers. However, foreign airlines can operate tourists charter flights to/from Amritsar as per the existing tourist charter guidelines.

Hike in fares of IA

2632. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to effect a 10 per cent hike in Indian Airlines fares; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Indian Airlines has, w.e.f. 26th March, 2003, increased the Rupee fares on domestic sectors by 15 per cent. Some re-structuring of the fares has also been carried out in order to minimize the inter-regional variations.

The increase in domestic Rupee fares was necessitated due to increase in cost of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) and other input costs.

Emergency plan of airlines services during Iraq war

†2633. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines companies have formulated any emergency plan in view of the possibility of Iraq war; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A contigency plan has been drawn up by Air India and Indian Airlines to evacuate Indian nationals if the situation so warrants. As per the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.